

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A guide wire comprising:

a wire member including a first wire disposed on a distal side of said wire member and a second wire disposed on a proximal side from said first wire, the first wire and the second wire each possessing an end face, the end face of the first wire and the end face of the second wire being welded to one another at a welded portion so that the first and second wires do not axially overlap one another; a cover layer provided on an outer periphery of said wire member and covering said welded portion between said first wire and said second wire; the cover layer is made of a resin material that reduces friction; a proximal-side cover layer disposed on the proximal side from the cover layer without an axial gap between the cover layer and the proximal-side cover layer, the cover layer and the proximal-side cover layer do not axially overlap one another; and a distal-side cover layer disposed on the distal side from the cover layer without an axial gap between the cover layer and the distal-side cover layer, the cover layer and the distal-side cover layer do not axially overlap one another; wherein the cover layer is formed such that the wire member is not heated at a time of covering the wire member with the cover layer.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein the cover layer covering the welded portion is made from a fluorocarbon resin or hydrophilic material.

9. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein the cover layer covering the welded portion is made from a silicone resin.

10. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 1, where the cover layer covering the welded portion is made from a metal having an elastic modulus that is equal to or smaller than that of the first wire.

11. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of the cover layer covering the welded portion is within the range of 1 to 2 μm and is uniform throughout the cover layer.

12. (Currently Amended) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of the cover layer covering the welded portion is uniform.

13. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein the cover layer extends across the welded portion and has a thickness that is uniform from a proximal end of the welded portion to a distal end of the welded portion.

14. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein the first wire is made from a superelastic alloy and the second wire is made from stainless steel.

15. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein the second wire is made from a Co-based alloy and the Co-based alloy is a Co--Ni--Cr alloy.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A guide wire according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein a ~~connection~~ the end face of the first wire and a ~~connection~~ the end face of the second wire at which the first and second wires are welded are each perpendicular to an axial direction of the first and second wires, and the welding between the first and second ~~connection~~ end faces is performed by a butt resistance welding process.

27. (Currently Amended) A guide wire according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein the distal-side cover layer is made from a material that reduces friction of the distal-side cover layer.

28. (Currently Amended) A guide wire according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein the distal-side cover layer is made from a fluorocarbon resin or hydrophilic material.

29. (Currently Amended) A guide wire according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein an average thickness of the distal-side cover layer is in a range of 1 to 20 μm .

30. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein the second wire is made from a material having an elastic modulus larger than that of the first wire.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) A guide wire according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein the distal-side cover layer is formed such that the wire member is heated at a time when the wire member is covered by the distal-side cover layer.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)

39. (Withdrawn) The guide wire according to claim 1, wherein a connection end face of the first wire and a connection end face of the second wire are welded; and

 said connection end faces are formed into a recessed and raised shape, respectively.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) The guide wire according to claim 1, wherein said cover layer is made from a reaction-curing type of the resin material or a composite material thereof, and a formation of the cover layer is performed at room temperature.

42. (Canceled)

43. (New) The guide wire according to claim 1, wherein an entire outer surface of the cover layer is devoid of grooves.

44. (New) The guide wire according to claim 1, wherein the distal-side cover layer is separate from the cover layer, with a joint between a proximal end of the distal-side cover layer and a distal end of the cover layer, the joint being positioned about a tapered portion of the first wire.